

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 NSC-05 ISO-00 SIG-03 /012 R

66011
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 9090
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 0851 ACTION SEC STATE INFO
MOGADISCIO NAIROBI USUN FEB 22

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0851

AF FOR HARROP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, ET, US

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH ETHIOPIAN FONMIN

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 0822, B. NAIROBI 2628 (NOTAL)

1. HUMAN RIGHTS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DISCUSSION ON FEB 18 BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN FONMIN AND THE AARON DEL. DEP. ASST. SECY. HARROP POINTED OUT THAT ASSURANCE OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND OF CONGRESS, WHICH IS BEING APPLIED ON GLOBAL BASIS. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR EFFORTS MADE BY EPMG TO CARRY OUT LONG OVERDUE REFORMS BENEFITTING POORER ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY. AT SAME TIME US LAMENTS LEVEL OF VIOLENCE THAT COMES WITH THESE EFFORTS. EVEN SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN LIKE TSONGAS AND BOKER HAD TEMPERED THEIR POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRES. ON ETHIOPIA WITH CRITICISM OF RED TERROR CAMPAIGN, AND IT WAS WITH SUCH CONSIDERATION IN MIND THAT US ABSTAINED ON IBRD LOAN LAST YEAR. US DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN DOMESTIC CONCERN OF OTHER GOVT'S BUT HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES WERE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED UNDER UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AEGIS AND WE FELT AN OBLIGATION TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE FELT US CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CAMPAIGN WOULD CONTINUE.

2. MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING OF SWEEPING CHANGES THAT ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY WAS UNDERGOING, WHICH NECESSARILY AROUSED STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG SOME CLASSES. THERE WERE KILLINGS ON BOTH SIDES, AND WHILE EPMG ANXIOUS TO STOP KILLINGS AND RESTORE PEACE, GOVT'S CURRENT MEASURES WERE JUSTIFIABLE, GIVEN COMPLEXITY OF SITUATION.

3. FELLEKE ADDED THAT EPMG WAS ATTEMPTING TO AVOID CIVIL WAR AND RESTORE AUTHORITY OVER THOSE OPOSED TO REVOLUTION'S GOALS. BROAD MASSES SUPPORTED REVOLUTION. IF THEY DID NOT, REVOLUTION COULD NOT SURVIVE. ONLY FEUDAL REMNANTS OFFERING FORCIBLE RESISTANCE.

4. AARON SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS HELPFUL TO LEARN OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS EPMG FACED, CONCEPT OF TERROR

AND COUNTER-TERROR IS ANATHEMA TO AMERICANS. ACCORDINGLY,
SUCH ACTIONS COULD BE EXPECTED TO TROUBLE BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP FOR SOME TIME TO COME. AT SAME TIME
HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF REVOLUTION WERE FEATURES WITH
WHICH US WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY.

5. EMBASSY PREPARING FULL MEMCON OF MEETING WITH
FELLEKE. MATHERON. UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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